(b) if so, the progress of its work;

(c) by when the report is expected;

(d) whether the agreement of 1985 on the sharing of the Ganga water will be further extended pending the recommendations of the Task Force; and

(e) if not, the subsequent steps proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) The Task Force in its three meetings held so far, identified areas of cooperation on short term and long term measures. The report is to be finalised in the next meeting on dates mutually convenient to India and Bangladesh.

(d) and (e) The sharing arrangement of Ganga Waters (1985) has not been extended and a new one is to be arrived after completing the negotiations.

व्यापारिक घरानों को प्रदान की गई सुविधाओं का दुरुपयोग

3537. सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत-रूस चैम्बर आफ कामर्स तथा इंडस्ट्री द्वारा हाल ही में करवाये गये सर्वेक्षण से यह पता चला है कि देश में मुक्त व्यापार क्षेत्रों में दी जाने वाली सुविधाओं का व्यापारियों द्वारा दुरुपयोग किया जा रहा है;

(ख) क्या सरकार को इस संबंध में कोई सूचना प्राप्त हुई है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है और भविष्य में सुविधाओं का इस प्रकार दुरुपयोग करने की प्रवृत्ति को रोकने तथा दोषी पाये गए व्यापारिक घरानों के विरुद्ध सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० आर० दास मुंशी) : (क) भारत सोवियत संघ वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंडल ने देश में मुक्त व्यापार जोनों के विकास का अध्ययन किया । उसने रिपोर्ट में बताया है कि उसे ऐसी सूचना मिली है कि मुक्त व्यापार जोनों में स्थित कुछ एकक जोन की सुविधाओं का दुरुपयोग कर रहे हैं ।

(ख) और (ग) आवेदक द्वारा अपने प्रस्तावित उत्पादन क्रियाकलापों के बारे में जो ब्यौरा दिया जाता है, उसे देखते हुये सरकार द्वारा प्रत्येक मामले में अनुमोदन-पत्र विभिन्न शर्तें निर्दिष्ट की जाती हैं । यदि अनुमोदन-पत्र के संदर्भ में किसी एकक द्वारा शर्तों के उल्लंघन का कोई मामला ध्यान में आता है तो ऐसी स्थिति में जहां कहीं आवश्यक समझा जाय, आवश्यक कार्रवाई की जाती है ।

Trade between India and Canada

3538. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts in the recent past to boost trade activities with Canada; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Government have initiated various measures and identified areas for expanding Indo-Canadian Trade. During the Indo-Canadian Joint Business Council Meeting held in Montreal in September, 1988, the focus of the discussions were largely on the following aspects:—

(i) Exploring possibilities of enhancing bilateral trade with specific emphasis on identifying specific items;

(ii) Identifying opportunities for technology transfer and industrial co-operation; and

(iii) Identifying sourcing possibilities for exports of commodities to Canada and vice-versa.

A large number of items for exports from India like engineering goods, automobile ancillaries, electronic components, computer software and agro-marine products have been indentified and, similarly, for imports from Canada, items, like electronic technologies, sophisticated electrical components, telecommunications equipment and technologies have been identified as potential areas for increasing the bilateral trade.

At the 8th Engineering Trade Fair held in February, 1989 in New Delhi more than 30 Canadian firms participated and brought to India a cross section of Canada's industry and technology. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, Government of Ontario, visited India on this occasion. During discussions with him, further areas for co-operation were identified for promoting trade between the two countries.

Master Plan to check soil erosion by Ganga in the districts of Murshidabad and Howrah in West Bengal

3539. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURSES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Governmnet have recently sent a Master Plan with an estimated cost of Rs. 15 crores to check soil erosion by Ganga in the districts of Murshidabad and Howrah in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) No such scheme has been received at the Centre.

(b) Does not arise.

Death of handloom weavers and cotton growers in Andhra Pradesh

3540. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of handloom weavers and cotton growers end d their life due to hardships in Guntu Prakasam and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh sometime back; if so, what steps are being taken by the Central Government to mitigate their hardships: and

(b) how much money was allotted by the Central Government to rehabilitate the handloom weavers and cotton growers who are in distress and what steps Government have taken to augment the exports of handlooms and to maintain the preeminence of cotton, as envisaged in the textile policy of the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Thirty persons connected with the handloom sector are reported to have died on account of suicide, accident and natural death in Guntur, Prakasam and Krishna districts. The conditions of the handloom weavers in these districts are reported to have been adversely affected mainly by the slump in demand for lungies and other varieties of handloom cloth due to competition from producers of lungies in neighbouring States as well as reduced demand of lungies from Burma and Bangladesh. The Central Government had deputed an officer of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India (HHEC) to examine the possibility of providing export avenues of these areas. After discussions with the State Government authorities, HHEC has placed sample orders to the weavers agencies in the concerned areas.

(b) The Central Government has released an amount of Rs. 60.00 lakhs as special advance for providing gainful employment to the unemployed weavers as a measure of ameliorating the distress conditions of the handloom weavers in Prakasam, and Guntur districts. Under the Centrally Sponsored Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) funds to the tune of Rs. 56.17 lakhs have been provided to Andhra Pradesh for the benefit of the cotton growers during the VII Five-Year Plan (1985-90).

The steps taken by Government to augment the exports of handlooms are setforth in the attached statement. (*See* be-